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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Many East German politicians in daily touch with the SED Central Committee do not anticipate that the Russians will make any concessions whatsoever at the forthcoming Four-Power Conference, and believe that they have agreed to take part only to gain time, confuse the West, and aggravate the differences between the principal Western Allies.

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2. The same circles think it is possible that the Russians may make some concessions in connection with the Berlin question, since they consider the removal of the Western base in Berlin very important and worth a high price. If in the talks no progress is made toward German reunification, the Russians will switch the emphasis to a new approach to the position of Berlin, believing that they can count with certainty on support from the French on this issue, and possibly

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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from the British as well. They will point out that the continued existence of West Berlin in the midst of an area of Soviet sovereignty is an untenable position for them, and will expect the West to agree at least that this situation is not to be a permanent one. To support their case they will cite material from the recent trials of agents

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3. Current speculation among members of the SED Central Committee over West Berlin's future if it should come under Soviet control shows that these circles take such suggestions seriously. Many anticipate the evacuation [redacted] 25X1 of [redacted] Berliners who are unwilling to stay, with the subsequent 25X1 deportation eastward by the Russians of those who decided to remain; the purpose of the deportation would be to render useless any agents who might have been left behind. The mass deportations of "Volksdeutsche" from the Ukraine and the Volga region in 1941 are cited as a precedent.

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